

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Intersessional work of the Standing Committee
2020-2021

APPLICATION OF ARTICLE XIII IN GUINEA:
UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE

1. This document has been prepared by the Secretariat.

Introduction

2. In accordance with Article XIII of the Convention and [Resolution Conf. 14.3 \(Rev. CoP18\)](#), the Standing Committee at its 71st meeting (SC71, Geneva, August 2019) reviewed the progress made by Guinea in the implementation of its recommendations based on the report of the Secretariat (document [SC71 Doc. 10.2](#)). The members of the Standing Committee and the Parties congratulated Guinea on the progress made. Yet, further actions were recommended in the framework of the application of Article XIII of the Convention (see [SC70SR](#)).
3. The Standing Committee updated the specific recommendations addressed to Guinea on compliance matters that require ongoing attention from Guinea (see [SC70SR](#)):
 - a) *Regarding export of pre-Convention specimens of Pterocarpus erinaceus;*
 - b) to c) *Regarding national legislation;*
 - d) to h) *Regarding management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates;*
 - i) to l) *Regarding compliance and law enforcement.*
4. The Standing Committee asked Guinea to submit a report to the Secretariat on the implementation of these recommendations, in particular recommendation a) on the adoption of safeguards, 90 days before the 73rd meeting of the Standing Committee, so that the Secretariat can provide its report and recommendations to the Standing Committee at that meeting. It also asked the Secretariat to provide training and capacity building to the CITES authorities of Guinea on request, subject to the availability of resources. In accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat published Notification [No. 2019/075](#) of 19 December 2019 recommending that Parties continue to suspend all commercial trade in specimens of CITES-listed species with Guinea until the above-mentioned recommendations have been implemented.

Implementation of the recommendations adopted at the 71st meeting of the Standing Committee

5. In July 2020, Guinea submitted to the Secretariat a progress report (with annexes) describing the measures taken between August 2019 and July 2020 on the implementation of the recommendations of the Standing Committee. The present report is based on this progress report and the subsequent communications between the Secretariat and the authorities of Guinea.

Recommendation a)

6. Regarding export of pre-Convention specimens of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, the Standing Committee recommended at its 71st meeting that Guinea:
 - a) *adopt adequate safeguards to mitigate any potential risks associated with the export of a stockpile of pre-Convention Pterocarpus erinaceus, including a system to identify the logs to be exported and a possible establishment of a voluntary 'zero quota' for export of Pterocarpus erinaceus harvested after the inclusion of the species in Appendix II (i.e. after 2 January 2017);*
7. As a reminder, the pre-Convention stockpile of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* in Guinea has been assessed to amount to 14,250 m³ of logs, corresponding to around 838 containers. Guinea estimates that 250 m³ of this stockpile is damaged and therefore cannot be traded. Considering this assessment and the final inventory that will be made before any potential export, the volume of timber available for export may be less than 14,000 m³.
8. On 29 November 2019, the Minister of State of Guinea issued a Service Note on the safeguards for the export of wood of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. Based on the recommendations of the Secretariat, a revised Service Note is being finalized to clarify certain technical aspects of these safeguards. The Secretariat notes that the safeguards for the export of wood of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* include the designation of a special national commission in charge of following the procedure and a detailed programme encompassing all stages, such as the inventory, the marking, the packing of the stockpile in containers and arrival at its final destination (China) within twelve months from the entry into force of a possible decision of the Standing Committee allowing the export of the stockpile.
9. The safeguards include the involvement of national institutions (i.e. Customs, the Gendarmerie and other law enforcement bodies) to ensure the safety and legality of the operation, as well as the participation of international bodies and independent observers (i.e. Delegation of the European Union, INTERPOL National Central Bureau in Conakry) to ensure the transparency of the operations.
10. Through the Service Note, Guinea has also committed to take further action to reduce any risk of illegal logging, including raising awareness of the public and of timber companies by issuing a decree that upholds the ban on logging, transport and exploitation of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. The draft Service Note also states that the control activities of the national brigade for combating wildlife crime will be strengthened prior to and during the export procedure in order to prevent any illegal logging of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*.
11. Based on these elements and the discussions held with Guinea since January 2019, the Secretariat considers that the measures taken and considered by Guinea meet the recommendations of the Standing Committee on safeguards for the export of the pre-Convention stockpile of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* to guarantee the transparency, legality and security of the procedure and ensure that it does not encourage further illegal logging.

Recommendations b) to c)

12. Regarding national legislation, between January 2019 and September 2020, based on the two main codes of Guinea (the Wildlife Code and the Forestry Code), the country adopted a considerable number of decisions, orders and decrees that progressively transposed the Convention to the national level. The Secretariat recognizes the significant commitment made by Guinea to meet to the minimum requirements of CITES concerning national legislation. However, certain legislative issues must still be clarified by Guinea before the procedure is completed.

Recommendations d) to h)

13. Regarding the management and issuance of CITES permits and certificates, Guinea ordered the printing of 1,000 security permits and stamps through the Secretariat and also shared a draft standard CITES permit with the Secretariat. Guinea reported that the protocol for the making of a non-detriment finding (NDF) would be the subject of a Service Note and that the NDF would subsequently be attached to each permit issued by the CITES Management Authority. The Minister of State has made a request to the Secretariat to provide training and capacity building to the CITES Scientific and Management Authorities. In preparation of a workshop on non-detriment findings (NDFs), Guinea has already sent to the Secretariat a list of species that may be traded internationally and subject to voluntary national export quotas. The Secretariat also noted the capacity building needs expressed by Guinea concerning the management of confiscated specimens.

14. In 2019, Guinea issued five CITES permits for the export of specimens only for scientific purposes. Between January and September 2020, Guinea also issued five CITES permits for scientific purposes (S) or zoological gardens (Z). The Secretariat received copies of each permit issued by Guinea.

Recommendations i) to j)

15. Regarding compliance and law enforcement, Guinea reported the seizures and confiscations of animal species made between January 2019 and June 2020. The 2019-2020 technical report of the GALF Project on the implementation of the Wildlife Act (*Guinée - Application de la Loi Faunique*) states that 21 traffickers were arrested between January 2019 and April 2020 in 14 operations. These operations led to 24 court hearings, which resulted in 15 court decisions ranging from fines to prison sentences. Moreover, under the authority of the Minister of Forestry, Guinea has established a national brigade for combating wildlife crime in each prefecture. A total of 180 brigade officers patrol the territory to detect, record et pursue infringements involving the exploitation of timber and wildlife. Guinea sent to the Secretariat its 2020 Action Plan and the consolidated report of activities and performance assessment issued in June 2020 on the national brigade. The latter lists the seizure and confiscation operations of products of wild fauna and flora that have been conducted and the training given to officials. Guinea also sent the Secretariat its annual illegal trade report for 2019, in compliance with Resolution Conf. 11.17 (Rev. CoP18) on *National reports*. In the report, Guinea noted the difficulties it faces to preserve dead specimens and manage the live animals confiscated as regards their health, transport and food.
16. Guinea reported that a memorandum of understanding is being prepared between the CITES Management Authority (DNEF) and the Customs Service, the Police and INTERPOL to formalize the collaboration, coordination and exchange of information between them. Guinea has also asked to implement the ICCWC Indicator Framework and received approval from ICCWC. The implementation of the ICCWC Indicator Framework ICCWC in Guinea has been delayed until the situation allows it. It should be noted that the necessary funds to conduct the activities have been secured thanks to the contribution of France to the ICCWC Strategic Programme.

Conclusions

17. In conclusion, the Secretariat notes significant progress regarding all the recommendations of the Standing Committee. Guinea has shown a strong will to make headway despite the difficult conditions and limited resources.